

Appl. No.: 09/834,061
Amdt. Dated Dec. 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Sept. 27, 2004

REMARKS

Claim 9 has been canceled. Claims 1, 11, 19 and 20 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-8, 10-20 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant graciously acknowledges the allowable subject matter indicated on pages 12 and 13 of the Final Action. Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 19 as noted in paragraph 13 on the bottom of page 12, which the Action indicated was allowable. Similarly, claim 20 have been amended to recite the same limitation noted in paragraph 13 of the Action that is directed to setting the last entry in the table to a particular value.

AMENDED CLAIM 1

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 9, which is now canceled. Now canceled claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 for the reasons set forth on page 6 of the Action. Specifically, claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katoh et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,796,430) (hereinafter referred to as "Katoh" or "Katoh reference") in view of Balz et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,929,865) (hereinafter referred to as "Balz" or "Balz reference").

The Action states that Katoh discloses the claimed invention, but does not disclose "storing a plurality of defective pixel locations in a sorted order wherein a search of the table to determine if a current pixel location is a defective pixel location is

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obviated," as claimed. The Action then cites the Balz reference for teaching "for storing pixels in a sorted order." (col. 4, lines 20 to 23) The Action further states that it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to combine Katoh and Balz and to store the defective pixels in a sorted order for the benefit of decreasing search time.

It is respectfully submitted that the Katoh reference, whether alone or in combination with Balz, does not fairly teach or suggest inter alia the following claim limitations: "storing a plurality of defective pixel locations in a sorted order wherein a search of the table to determine if a current pixel location is a defective pixel location is obviated."

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 are respectfully traversed, at least insofar as applied to the amended claims, and reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth hereinbelow. Moreover, this combination is contested as improper. However, even if this combination were proper, which is not conceded, the resulting combination would still fail to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

It is respectfully submitted that Balz is directed to a novel more efficient method for converting graphics data into raster lines in the overall conversion of design data into pixel data (col. 1, lines 19-22) and has nothing to do with the detection and correction of defective pixels. It further noted that the sorting of coordinates of arcs and line segments (col. 3, lines 15-17) or the sorting (e.g., insertion sort) of pixels of sub-shapes in steps 20, 22, and 24 of FIG. 1 (col. 3, lines 40-42, 60-62 & col. 4, lines

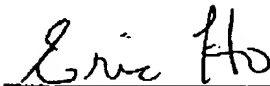
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14-23) performed by Balz is very different from and does not fairly teach or suggest, "storing a plurality of defective pixel locations in a sorted order wherein a search of the table to determine if a current pixel location is a defective pixel location is obviated," as claimed.

It is respectfully submitted that the Katoh reference, whether alone or in combination with the Balz reference, fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of amended claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

For all the reasons advanced above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are requested, and allowance is earnestly solicited at an early date. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any suggestions, thoughts or comments, which might expedite the prosecution of this case.

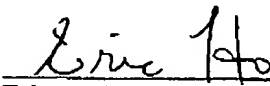
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (fax no.: 703-872-9306) on the date below.



Eric Ho (RN 39,711)

Aug. 11, 2005
(Date)